LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1.   **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

receiving invoice information in an application-specific data object format from each of a plurality of applications;

translating the invoice information into a common invoice data object format, wherein

the translating is performed by a processor,

the common invoice data object format comprises at least one relationship data element, wherein

the relationship data element specifies at least one relationship between a plurality of entities,

the common invoice data object format comprises at least one custom data element, and

the custom data element facilitates customization of the common invoice data object format; ~~and~~

determining essential data elements of the common invoice data object format, wherein

the essential data elements are stored in a memory coupled to the processor, and

the essential data elements comprise

an identification data element,

a base data element,

a pricing data element,

a shipping data element, and

a line item details data element<u>; and</u>

<u>**translating the invoice information in the common invoice data object to an application-specific data object format, wherein**</u>

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the application-specific data object format is used by a respective application.

2.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~computer-implemented~~ method of claim 1 further comprising:

inter-exchanging invoice information in the common invoice data object format between two or more of the plurality of applications.

3.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~computer-implemented~~ method of claim [[2]] **1**, further comprising: **wherein the determining comprises:**

~~translating invoice information in the common invoice data object to an application-specific data object format for use by a respective application~~

invoking a business routine, wherein

the business routine is one of a standard library of business routines stored by an integration server,

the business routine is invoked by a business process,

the business process is used to define the common data object format,

the common data object format comprises a plurality of invoice objects, and

an invoice object of the plurality of invoice objects comprises a globally unique identifier.

4.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~computer-implemented~~ method of claim [[3]] **1** wherein the common invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

5.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~computer-implemented~~ method of claim 4 further comprising the precedent operations of:

creating a common invoice data object format including at least the essential data
elements.

6.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~computer-implemented~~ method of claim 1 wherein
the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of
application-specific data object formats.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~computer-implemented~~ method of claim 6 wherein
the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.

9.   **(Currently Amended)** The ~~computer-implemented~~ method of claim 8 wherein
the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements
selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment
method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data
element.

10.   **(Currently Amended)**A system comprising:
a processor;
a machine-readable storage medium configured to be accessed by the processor; and
a data structure, wherein
        the data structure is stored on the machine-readable storage medium, ~~and~~
        the data structure is defined in an extensible markup language format, the data
                structure comprising:
                at least one relationship data element, wherein
                        the relationship data element specifies at least one relationship
                                between a plurality of entities;
                at least one custom data element configured to facilitate customization of
                        the common invoice data object format;

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an invoice identification data element;

an invoice base data element;

an invoice pricing data element;

an invoice shipping data element; and

an invoice line item details data element,

the data structure is configured to be used in translating invoice information into a common invoice data object format, and

the data structure is further configured to be used in translating the invoice information in the common invoice data object to an application-specific data object format , wherein

the application-specific data object format is used by a respective application.

11.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 10 wherein the data structure further comprises:

at least one complex data element.

12.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 11 wherein the data structure further comprises:

one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.

13.   **(Currently Amended)** A machine-readable medium that provides executable instructions, which, when executed by a computing system, cause the computing system to perform a method comprising:

receiving invoice information in an application-specific data object format from each of a plurality of applications;

translating the invoice information into a common invoice data object format, wherein

the common invoice data object format comprises at least one relationship

data element, wherein

the relationship data element specifies at least one relationship

between a plurality of entities,

the common invoice data object format comprises at least one custom data

element, and

the custom data element facilitates customization of the common invoice

data object format; ~~and~~

determining essential data elements of the common invoice data object format,

wherein

the essential data elements comprise

an identification data element,

a base data element,

a pricing data element,

a shipping data element, and

a line item details data element; **and**

translating the invoice information in the common invoice data object to an

application-specific data object format , wherein

the application-specific data object format is used by a respective

application.

14.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the method further

comprises:

inter-exchanging invoice information in the common invoice data object format

between two or more of the plurality of applications.

15.   **(Cancelled**

16.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the common

invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

17.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the method further comprises the precedent operations of:

    creating a common invoice data object format including at least the essential data elements.

18.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.

19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.

21.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 20 wherein the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.

22.   **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising:

    a plurality of processing systems, each processing system storing at least one application that processes invoice information, the invoice information having an application-specific data object format; and

    an integration server, coupled via a network, to each of the plurality of processing systems, **wherein**

    the integration server ~~translating~~ **is configured to translate** invoice information from an application specific data object format to a common invoice data object format, wherein

the common invoice data object format comprises

at least one relationship data element, wherein

the relationship data element specifies at least one

relationship between a plurality of entities,

at least one custom data element, wherein

the custom data element facilitates customization of the

common invoice data object format, and

a set of essential data elements,

the set of essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a

plurality of application-specific data object formats, and

the set of essential data elements comprise

an identification data element,

a base data element,

a pricing data element,

a shipping data element, and

a line item details data element**, and**

the integration server is further configured to translate the invoice

information in the common invoice data object to an application-

specific data object format , wherein

the application-specific data object format is configured to be used by

a respective application.

23.   (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein invoice information in the common invoice data object format is inter-exchanged between two or more processing systems.

24.   (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the common invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

25.   (Cancelled)

26.   (Cancelled)

27.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.

28.   (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
specifying a level of compatibility with a data object format of a first application,
     wherein
     the determining the essential data elements facilitates achieving the specified level
          of compatibility.